



Dr. Joseph C. Rallo - Commissioner

- * review or eliminate existing degree programs or departments;
- * approve, disapprove, or modify proposed academic programs or departments;
- * study both the need for and feasibility of new postsecondary institutions as well as the conversion of existing schools into campuses offering more advanced courses of study;
- * formulate and update a master plan for higher education (which must include a higher education funding formula); and
- * review annual budget proposals for the operating and capital needs of each public institution.

Fall 2014-2015 Louisiana Public Higher Education Enrollment

Our Budget: Our Challenges

Louisiana public colleges and universities have made the necessary adjustments to adapt to this new reality with nearly 5000 fewer employees, increased class sizes, and charging more in tuition and fees.

¹Note: Self generated funds include \$123 million of TOPS awards in FY 09 and \$265 million in FY 16.

*Institutions provide scholarships/fellowships to attract the best students and to abide by legislative mandates at the expense of not receiving all budgeted tuition/fee.

Studies and data prove that an investment in education is an investment in improving the socioeconomic status of our state. Our colleges and universities need the support to produce the human capital that meets Louisiana's workforce demand. The level of investment in higher education will determine the future growth and stability of our state.

The Pursuit of Excellence: Our Successes

The Louisiana Board of Regents is committed to enhancing institutional effectiveness, efficiency, and being responsive to the needs of our students and state. Additionally, Regents remains focused on fostering a community of students, faculty, and staff in which diversity and inclusion is an essential component. Despite deep declines in state funding since 2008-2009, Louisiana higher education has worked diligently to:

- * Increase institutional effectiveness in order to produce more qualified graduates;
- * Better align educational outcomes with state priorities through academic program reviews where nearly 600 academic programs have been eliminated or consolidated; and
- * Improve campus efficiencies and innovation in this fiscally stringent environment. This includes streamlining system and campus business operations, along with addressing unnecessary duplication of programs and services.

Additional successes include:

- * Highest percentage of undergraduate credit or contact hours taken by high school students in the SREB Region for 2014-2015.
- * Increased student access through online courses and degrees by 44%. This is a result of Louisiana Online, a statewide pathway for students to complete their degree in a convenient and flexible online format.
- * Established additional transfer articulation opportunities through campus MOUs and programs such as Louisiana Transfer Degree Guarantee (TDG), a statewide program where community college students can transfer to a Louisiana 4-year public university and immediately enroll with Junior-level status in most majors.
- * Provided institutions with immediate statewide access to technology and integrated library systems through the Louisiana Online University Information System (LOUIS) and Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI).
- * Ranked 16th nationally and 4th in the SREB for higher education efficiency according to the US Chamber of Commerce.
- * The passage of Senate Bill 80 of the 2016 Regular Session, which gives higher education management boards the authority to set tuition rates without legislative approval. Louisiana is the only state that requires a 2/3 vote of both the House and Senate to leverage tuition. The bill will now be considered by voters in November.

Elevate Louisiana: Our Future

To address the changing landscape of higher education, the Louisiana Board of Regents adopted Elevate Louisiana! This initiative serves as the foundation for the future direction of Louisiana higher education. Elevate Louisiana is supported by two very specific goals- Educate and Innovate.

Aligned to the Elevate Louisiana mission, the Board approved a series of strategic priorities which address the current and projected fiscal realities for Louisiana higher education. These priorities are supported by four guiding principles and seven distinct actions.

The graphic features the Louisiana Board of Regents logo at the top left. The main title 'Elevate Louisiana!' is in large blue font, followed by 'Educate & Innovate' in green and blue. Below this is the subtitle 'Louisiana's goals for the higher education system'. Two circular icons represent 'Educate' (a brain with a gear) and 'Innovate' (a flower-like atom). Below each icon is a box containing a goal statement and a descriptive sentence.

Educate	Innovate
"Educate through Higher Education to Improve Lives and Create a Strong Workforce."	"Innovate to Build Louisiana's Economy."
Enable Louisiana's working age population to participate in and complete a degree/credential program to improve their lives and deliver the workforce needed to support the state's economic expansion.	Invest strategically in research that supports innovation and economic development.

Guiding Principles:

1. Access to undergraduate education is essential to the population and economy of Louisiana.
2. Access to graduate education must be re-evaluated from a narrower state-wide perspective.
3. Resources must be provided for essential cutting-edge research at selected sites.
4. Postsecondary resources must be targeted to respond to local/regional workforce needs.

Higher Education Initiatives:

1. Approve, as appropriate, revisions to existing role, scope and mission statements.
2. Develop and Adopt a Policy on mergers/consolidations of institutions.
3. Develop and Adopt a Policy on Financial Early Warning Systems and Financial Stress.
4. Revise Regents' Policy on Low-Completer Review to Elevate the Threshold for Review.
5. Conduct a Statewide and Regional Review of all Graduate programs.
6. Conduct a Statewide and Regional Review of Targeted Undergraduate Programs.
7. Review Degree Program Requirements and Available Courses to Encourage/Reward Structured Pathways to Degrees with Limited Course Choice.